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PREFACE.

THE completion of the Third Volume of the MINING JOURNAL appears a fitting occasion for some few observations on its utility, as well as of tendering to our numerous Correspondents our acknowledgments for the kindness they have manifested in its support by their contributions. On the commencement of this Publication there was much to contend with, more especially from a prevailing opinion which at the time existed, that success could not be expected, the subject being supposed to be too confined to allow of support to a Weekly Journal exclusively devoted to its consideration. This prejudice existed merely from the circumstance of the attempt being the first to furnish information on a Science not only interesting in itself, but of infinite importance, from the large sums of money which have been embarked in Mining Companies. That the view we took at the time was a correct one, the proud position in which we now stand affords the best evidence, by the INCREASING CIRCULATION, and increasing interest which each successive number creates, arising, as we are induced to believe, from the value and importance of the articles inserted, either furnished by Correspondents or selected from works of acknowledged value.

The Index for the present Volume we refer to with feelings of pleasure, as recording the result of our successful exertions, for we believe that no work is published in this kingdom comprising so much information in so condensed a form—varied as it is, yet confined to those particular subjects which are peculiarly the province of a Journal devoted to the Mining Interest.

The utility, indeed we might almost say the necessity, of a publication of this nature has at length become apparent to all, and it is, at the present time, a source of surprise to many that such a work had not long since appeared. Time can alone render it perfect, or enable the Editor to acquire the desired information on several subjects which have been hitherto but partially touched upon, to do which, however, it is evident that he must be indebted to the communications of those who possess local advantages of acquiring information to which no single individual can be supposed to have access.

A brief recapitulation of the Contents of the Volume will, we trust, be deemed a sufficient evidence of the desire we have shown to render the Journal interesting and instructive—to consult the wishes and opinions of our numerous Subscribers—to afford information on Mining pursuits, and to furnish Mining Correspondence in detail—while we have not allowed abuses to escape unnoticed—it being the duty of a public journalist to expose fraud, while he upholds those undertakings which are based on just views and upright intentions.

It may be not amiss here to advert to the proceedings of one particular Company, to which considerable attention has been, directed and the inquiry into which, originated with the MINING JOURNAL. To the fearless exposure through its columns are the Proprietors indebted for the discovery of the nature of the transactions—the result of which has been to restrain the parties from the further wasteful expenditure of the funds of the Company. So frequently have we had occasion to advert to this Company, that we should now pass it by unnoticed; but as we conceive the case to be "itself its only parallel," we cannot resist the opportunity of referring to it, on the present occasion, the exposition having been brought about entirely through the medium of the MINING JOURNAL. The opinions we were led to entertain, and which we ventured to express on an examination of the Accounts, have been since proved to be correctly formed, the VICE-CHANCELLOR having granted an INJUNCTION, perhaps the strongest on record, evidently founded on a similar conviction, while Directors, Auditor, and the Secretary, have withdrawn from a concern which necessarily tinges with suspicion all those who have any connexion with the management of its affairs. In this we have had to execute a most unpleasant office, but one which could not be avoided, in the performance of our duties—for to have allowed deception and fraud to go unnoticed, would have rendered the MINING JOURNAL less useful than it professes and ought to be, and to have deceived the public by allowing them to remain in a state of supposed security. Sensible of the justice of our cause, we therefore feel no apprehension as to the result of the proceedings which have been taken against us by the Managing Director—one of which actions, at the moment of writing, has, however, been discontinued by the Plaintiff. We turn with pleasure from this unpleasing topic to one of more general interest—the value of the contributions of our Correspondents and the Miscellaneous matter collected in our columns, while the Tabular pages call also for some notice.

Among our valued Correspondents we name with pleasure Mr. FREDERICK BURR, whose contributions on several topics, among which may be mentioned the elaborate and ably-written Review of Dr. Buckland's Bridgewater Treatise on "Mineralogy and Geology," claims our first notice; and it is with feelings of gratification that we reflect on the circumstance of the MINING JOURNAL and the MINING REVIEW being the only works in England devoted to those Sciences (with which that gentleman is so conversant, and on which he is so well qualified to write) through which his communications could receive publicity and be duly appreciated by those to whom they were addressed. It is only an act of justice thus to tender our meed of thanks for services rendered. To A. B. on the "Theory of the Creation;" to our several Correspondents "On the Coal Trade;" and to E. B., "On the Mines of Ireland," our thanks are eminently due, as well as to many Correspondents who, on matters of temporary or local interest, have favoured us with their communications. It may have occurred, in some instances, that apparent neglect has been shown to those who have favoured the Journal with information, the insertion of which has been precluded from press of matter, and whose favonrs may, therefore, have been unnoticed. To them, with our apologies, our thanks are equally due, as having evinced, on their part, an interest in the welfare, and a desire to support the MINING JOURNAL.

Having completed Three Volumes, comprising nearly 700 pages of letter-press, it is with pride we can look back and reflect that its columns have never been lent to advance the interests of any one particular Mine or Party. Guided by an honest independence of principle—regardless what individual interests *as such* were advanced or otherwise by the course pursued—it was too much to expect that we could proceed without incurring the displeasure of some to whom "unpleasant truths" are far from being welcome. It is with satisfaction we find that prejudice is in a great measure disarmed by the acknowledged justness of our remarks, where we have felt it our duty to deal with facts as we found them, and not to distort them with the view of rendering them, by deceptive means,

more pleasing to the public eye. It is, therefore, gratifying to observe, although all have not been pleased, yet that an increasing patronage attends our weekly labours, and that the MINING JOURNAL, in the short space of sixteen months, has assumed a station in works of Literature and Science, of which the Editor and those who have so ably contributed to its success, may be justly proud.

The alteration in the Duty on Newspapers affording an opportunity for a change, such as might be acceptable to our readers, and not too onerous, in a pecuniary point of view, to ourselves, determined the publication of SUPPLEMENTS with the alternate numbers of the Journal, in addition to the enlargement of the sheet when necessary, for furnishing the regular Weekly Intelligence. This course became requisite, from the pressure of Original and Mining Correspondence, with other matter of temporary interest, which, with the extension of our Tabular columns, tended almost to exclude articles of a Scientific nature, or lengthened Reviews of works deserving of attention. The arrangements made have been attended with perfect success, ten numbers of the Supplement have now been published, and we refer to the several articles contained in them with satisfaction. The proceedings of the British Association at their last Meeting; the several Reviews of Dr. Buckland's "Bridgewater Treatise;" of the "Miner's Guide;" "Dufrenoy on the Hot-Blast;" "Scientific Records;" "Birmingham and its Vicinity," and other works of interest, could only be given through the medium of Supplements, while extracts from Foreign works and Scientific intelligence, to which the columns are also open, render the Supplement in itself a separate work, devoted to Geology, Mineralogy, &c., having no connexion with the progress and operations of the several Mining Companies, the Prices of the Public Funds, Shares, &c. It thus forms a distinct and separate Volume from the MINING JOURNAL, which abstractedly may be considered as peculiarly calculated for the Shareholder or Adventurer in Mines, separate Folios having been adopted, so that the Volume may be bound in a separate form, and when completed, it will be accompanied by a Title-page and Index.

The Tabular matter presented to our Readers weekly, containing the Sales and Purchases of Ores in the county of Cornwall and at Swansea; the Prices of the British and Foreign Funds, the Course of Exchange, Prices of Shares, &c., may be considered the most complete of the kind. Although it is impracticable to obtain the exact Price of the Shares in some Mines, the business in which is confined to a few parties, and not introduced in the official List published under the authority of the Stock Exchange, we are convinced that the quotations may be generally depended upon. Much care has been taken to render it perfect, and suggestions to promote this end will be at all times received with pleasure, and, where practicable, adopted.

It does not appear necessary, on the present occasion, to offer further observation on the utility of the publication, other than to advert to the Capital employed in Foreign and English Mines, and in the various speculations enumerated in the Share List, these Companies having had no medium of communication with their Shareholders until the publication of the MINING JOURNAL. The extracts from the Correspondence received from the Mines may now be read by the Shareholder whether resident in the country or in London, without visiting the offices for such purpose. The Proceedings of Public Meetings, which before were known only to those present, are now not only permanently recorded, but afford information to the distant Shareholder. The Sales and Purchases of Ores, the Quantities, and the Prices obtained, are also communicated, which were previously accessible only to those personally interested. The publication of the Correspondence has been found to be a wholesome check on those Agents who were induced, from over-sanguine expectations, to give their Reports the "*couleur de rose*" (a circumstance calculated greatly to mislead Adventurers unacquainted with the nature of Mining operations, or the difficulties attendant on them), as it has attracted the attention and remarks of those more capable of forming an estimate of their value, and been the means, in most instances of late, of the course being adopted in submitting Reports, of confining them to a statement of the actual work done, and dealing less with anticipated, but often very doubtful, results.

We cannot conclude these few remarks without expressing the gratification we derive from finding that, on the completion of a Third Volume, our labours have been attended with so large a measure of success. Pursuing the same course we have heretofore done, we cannot but anticipate that, with increased exertion, and the accession of talent which we may fairly calculate upon in the contributions of our Scientific friends, we may be enabled, upon the completion of another Volume, of congratulating our Subscribers and ourselves on being in a situation even more proud than that which we now hold.

INDEX TO THE THIRD VOLUME.

American Funds—in each Number
Accidents in Mines, Letter on, 27
Assurance Companies—in each Number
Albion Mining Company—in each Number
A. P. D., 83
Anori Gold Stream Works, 99, 115, 218, 227
Age of the World, by Professor Buckland, 101, 123
Alder, Daniel, 107
Aylesbury Railway Company, 114
A. C. 123
A Miner, 123, 206
Australian Agricultural Company, 124
Anglo Mexican Gold Mining Company, 154
Audley Lock Company, 171
Agricultural and Commercial Bank of Ireland, 198
Austen, B., 198
Ashmolien Society, 4, 190
American Railroads, 59
Artesian Wells, 152, 164
Ancient Athens, 152
Association, German Naturalists, 143
American Metals, 214

Burr, Frederick, 5, 29, 27, 107, 122, 135
Black Tin, purchases of, 7, 15, 23, 39, 47, 55, 71, 95, 111, 119, 127, 147, 159, 187, 207, 215, 223
British Copper Mining Company, 5, 13, 22, 29, 37, 45, 61, 69, 77, 85, 94, 102, 109, 117, 126, 138, 146, 158, 165, 173, 182, 198, 205, 213, 221
British Mines, (Prices of Shares)—in each Number
Bridges, (Prices of Shares)—in each number.
British Tin Mining Company, 13, 22, 29, 37, 45, 53, 61, 69, 77, 85, 93, 101, 109, 117, 125, 137, 146, 158, 165, 173, 182, 197, 205, 213, 221, 229
Boringdon Park Mining Company, 22, 61, 102, 137, 182, 221
Bolivar Mining Company, 22, 54, 85
Black tin, Sale of, 23, 31, 47, 55, 63, 87, 95, 103, 119, 127, 139, 159, 175, 207, 215, 223
Brazilian Mining Company, 38, 46, 61, 70, 80, 110, 165, 174, 183, 202
British Copper Mining Company Meeting, 52
Birmingham Tin Plate Company, 53
Bordesly Steel Company, 53
Bank of Birmingham, 60, 99
Bolanos Mining Company, 78, 110, 121, 165, 194, 202, 211
Balloon Ascent, 83
Brough, William, 107
Boxer, James, 143
Birmingham Canal Company, 171
British Silver, Lead, and Copper Mining Company, 182
Brittanicus, 186, 219
Birmingham Drapery Company, 219
Beddoes Dr. and Dr. Buckland, 122
Buckland's Bridgewater Treatise, 186, 218
Brazil, Steam Communication, 126, 144
Brighton Railway, 44
British Association, 62
British Museum, 126
Bank of England, 198, 212

City Article—in each Number
Court of Chancery, 4
Correspondents, Notices to—in each Number
Calls on shares—in each Number
Commercial Intelligence—in each Number
Copper Ores, Purchases at Redruth, 7, 31, 63, 71, 79, 95, 139, 147, 159, 167, 175, 207, 215, 231.
Copper Ores Purchases at Swansea, 7, 15, 39, 56, 79, 103, 119, 138, 159, 175, 207
Copper Ores, Sale of, Truro, 7, 15, 31, 39, 103, 111, 147, 175, 187
Course of Exchange—in each Number
Coal Market—in each Number
Concanen, George, 11
Coal in Northamptonshire, 19
Carn Grey Mining Company, 5, 13, 29, 45, 53, 77, 93, 117, 125, 145
Cornwall United Mining Association, 5, 77, 125, 173, 229
Canals (Prices of Shares)—in each Number
Cornwall Great United Mining Company, 22, 45, 106, 138, 140, 158, 165
Candonga Mining Company, 23, 53, 54, 85, 118, 138, 194
Copper Ores at Camborne, Sale of, 23, 55
Cambrian Mining Company, 29
Copper Ores at Swansea, Sale of, 31, 47, 71, 95, 111, 127, 147, 175, 199
Copiapo Mining Company, 34
Colombian Mining Association, 38, 46, 118, 151, 222, 229
Copper Ores at Truro, Purchases of, 39, 47, 111, 119, 159, 187, 199
Combmartin and North Devon Mining Company, 76, 213
Copper Ores at Poole, Purchases of, 87, 127
Coal trade, 107, 115, 120, 123, 135, 136, 155, 157, 163, 164, 184, 211
Constant Reader, 107, 123, 143
C., 107, 135
Cook, Benjamin, 115
Carigan Consolidated Tin Mining Company, 154
Christmas Coinage, 215
Crosse's Galvanic Apparatus, 219
Conybeare, W. D., 219
Carn Brea, 26, 43, 59, 75, 110, 126, 152
Court of Chancery, 4
Coal and Iron, Formation of, 58
Clifton Bridge, 102
Cornish Mines and Commerce, 120
Commerce, Prosperity of, 120, 180
Canal Boat Experiments, 132
Colliery Accidents, 51, 134, 152, 171, 226
Consumption of Coal, 152
Copper, Extraction of, 170
Crosse's Magnetic Apparatus, 192
Coins and Medals, 190
Coals in France, 198
Court of Exchequer, 211
Communication with India 210
Coaf's Patent, 230

De Dunstanville, Memorial, 4
Dividends—in each Number

Docks (Prices of shares)—in each Number
Disuniting Tin and Lead, Letter on, 67
D. to the Editor, 5
Derespoir, 67
Denbighshire Iron and Coal Company, 135, 163
Drapery Company, 218
Davy Lamp, 11
Danube and Maine Canal, 180

English Mines—in each Number
English Funds—in each Number
European Gas Company, 12
East Cornwall Silver Mining Company—in each Number
East Wheal Strawberry—in each Number
English Mining Company, 6, 22, 29, 53, 61, 70, 85, 93, 132, 117, 125, 146, 158, 165, 173, 182, 206, 213
East Wheal Brothers Mining Company, 6, 13, 22, 29, 37, 45, 53, 61, 69, 77, 85, 93, 101, 109, 117, 126, 138, 145, 158, 165, 173, 182, 197, 205, 218
E. B., 83, 101
Eastern Counties Railway Bill, 106
East Wheal Kitty Mining Company, 221
Electric Shocks from a Common Magnet, 219
Earthquake, 171

Fair Play, 5, 59
Foreign Funds—in each number
French Funds—in each number
Foreign Mines, 14, 22, 30, 38, 45, 53, 61, 70, 85, 94, 102, 110, 117, 131, 151, 158, 165, 174, 183, 194, 202, 214, 222, 229
Foreign Mines (prices of shares)—in each number
Fossils, 74
Fossil Ink, 144

Geology, 5, 27, 114
Gas Light and Coke Companies—in each number
Grand Connexion Railway, 60
General Steam Navigation Company, 69, 75
Great Western Railway, 76
Galvanism, 115
Gloucester and Hereford Railway, 124
Guernsey and Sark Mines, 126, 157
Great Wheal Prosper Mining Company, 198
Godfrey, Samuel, 206
Gray, S., 227
Grylls's Mining Sheet, 76
Greenwich Railway, 150, 180, 210
Gold Mine, 170
Geological Survey, by R. Thomas, 189

Hanson, Thomas, letter, 11
Holmbush Mining Company, 6, 13, 22, 29, 37, 45, 53, 61, 69, 77, 85, 93, 101, 109, 117, 125, 138, 145, 157, 173, 182, 198, 205, 211, 213, 220, 229
Hayle Consols Mining Company, 22, 29, 45, 61, 77, 93, 109, 125, 145, 164, 182, 205, 221
Holmbush Mining Company, letter on, 75
Harmony and Montague Mining Company, 85, 115, 117
Hennock Mining Company, 125
Hull and Selby Railway Company, 137
Hughes, William, 198
Hunt, Robert, 219

Irish Funds—in each number
Indemnity Mutual Marine Insurance Company, meeting, 21
Joint Stock Banks (prices of shares)—in each number
Irish Waste Land Improvement Society, 99
Irish Mines, 101
Iron, Foreign and British, 44
In Vino Veritas, 211

Joint Stock Banks, 107, 144
Johnson, H., 227

Kerrow Mining Company, 5, 13, 29, 37, 53, 77, 93, 99, 117, 164, 198
Knockmahon Mines, letter on, 75
Krecft, Christopher, 115
King John, 123
Kellewerris Mining Company, 145, 165, 173, 182
Kefn Lead Mine, 165, 173

London Gazette—in each number
London Dock Company, 12
Llansannan Mining Company, 11
London and Falmouth Railway, 19
Literary Institutions—in each number
Liverpool and Manchester Railway, 38
Leamington Banking Company, 53
London Grand Junction Railway Company, 82, 90, 99
Liverpool and Manchester Timber Company, 163
Lead, Imports and Exports, 19
London Junction Railway, Remarks on, 84, 92
London and Falmouth Railway, 150

Meetings of Companies—in each number
Mines in Wales, 4
Mining Problems, 5
Mining Speculations, 5, 27, 37, 51, 186
Mining Correspondence—in each number
Meteorological Journal—in each number
Mining Company of Ireland, 20
Mineral Veins, 19, 192
Mine Jobbing, 19
Mining Companies, Remarks on, 20
Miscellanea (Prices of Shares)—in each number
Mocaubus and Cocaes Mining Company, 14, 46, 86, 151, 174, 183
Mexican Mining Association, 14, 38, 45, 68, 70, 76, 118, 158, 203
Midsummer Coinage, 23
Malachy, J., 37
Metalliferous Lodes in Mexico, 59
Mines in Ireland, 83, 101, 107, 115
Manchester and Leeds Railway, 99
Michaelmas Coinage, 163
Minas Geraes, 118
Malacates of Mexico, work performed by the, 122
Mineral Statistics, 135
Moderator, 155
Mount's Bay Mining Company, 173, 197

Mines in Wales, Remarks on, 4, 12
Mining Company, Remarks on, 20, 108, 124
Mercy as a Medium, 43
Machinery and Labour, 54
Machinery for Weights, 54
Metals, On, 5, 18, 62, 66
Manufacture, New System of, 62
Mining Operations, Remarks on, 60, 144, 196, 228
Mineralogy and Geology, 58
Mines, Produce of, 84, 93, 100
Magnetic Experiments, 99
Mining in Ireland, 99, 134, 180, 198
Materials, Prices of, 120, 156, 183
Malacates, 122
Metallic Currency, 152
Meteorological Society, 158
Mineral Productions of France, 180
Marazion Mines, 219

New South Hooe Mining Company, Meeting, 20, 28
North Cornwall Mining Company—in each number
New South Hooe, Mining Company—in each number
North Consols Mining Company—in each number
Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Banking Company, 60
New Raising Machine, 83
North Midland Railway, 99
New Granada Mining Company, 118, 222
National Brazilian Mining Association, 137, 218
Natural History, 66
Navigation in Sweden, 171

Oram, R., 5
Original Correspondence—in each number
Old Moor Mining Company, 13, 29, 154, 218
Orkney Island's, Geological Structure, 59
Ores, Prices of, Remarks, 156

Parliamentary Summary, 3, 19, 27, 36, 42, 51, 58, 67
Pompeii, 6
Prices of Shares—in each number
Prices of Metals—in each number
Public Companies, Meetings of—in each number
Perran Consols, Meeting, 12
Patents Granted, 12
Palæontology, 19
Perran Consolidated Mining Company—in each number
Polbreen Mining Company—in each number
Prices of Shares at Liverpool—in each number
Prices of Shares at Birmingham—in each number
Penoles Gold Mining Company, 14, 38, 158, 162, 214
Proceedings of Parliament relative to Joint Stock Companies, 3, 10, 18, 27, 36, 42, 51, 59, 67
Purday R., 75
Palladium, 75
Poussett, W. M., 75
Plymouth Tin Mine, 143
Paddon, R. M., 155
Printers' Pension Society, 155
Practical Man, 186
Plans and Sections Mines, 186
Plomer, James, 219
Patents, 44, 118, 176, 230
Platinum, Analysis of, 143
Private and Joint Stock Banks, 154
Patent Steam Boilers, 174
Public Companies, 220

Row, Charles, 5
Roche Rock Mining Company, Meeting, 12, 21
Real del Monte, Mining Company, Meeting, 21, 28, 32, 78, 110, 117, 165, 194, 202
Redmoor Consols Mining Company—in each number
Redruth United Mining Company—in each number
Railways (Prices of Shares)—in each number
Roads (Prices of Shares)—in each number
Roche Rock Mining Company, 13, 22, 29, 45, 53, 69, 77, 85, 102, 109, 125, 137, 157, 164, 173, 182, 198, 205, 213, 221, 229
Royal Polberrow Consols Mining Company, 13, 45, 53, 61, 109, 146, 171, 182, 229
R. M., 75
Rocks Tin Mine, 101, 107, 115, 143
Rio Doce Company, 134, 137
Royal Copper Mines of Cobre, 151
Rogers, J., 206, 219
Russian Railroad, 227
Railway Bills, 68
Refining with Coal, 94
Railroad in Russia, 211

Scientific Meetings, Proceedings of, 4
Stannaries, 11
Safety Lamp, Letter on, 11
Safety for Steam-boilers, 28
South Wheal Leisure Mining Company, 5, 13, 22, 29, 37, 45, 53, 61, 69, 77, 85, 93, 101, 109, 117, 125, 138, 145, 151, 165, 173, 182, 198, 205, 213, 222, 229
St. John Del Rey, Mining Company, 14, 38, 77, 118, 151, 174, 183
Sale of Copper Ores at Camborne, 15, 47
Sale of Copper Ores at Redruth, 23, 55, 63, 71, 87, 127, 139, 159, 167, 199, 207, 215
South Polgooth Mining Company, 30, 83, 115, 135, 155, 186, 211, 227
Steam-Engines, 31, 103, 155, 206
Stourbridge and Kidderminster Banking Company, 60
Scrip Companies, 67
Scrutator, 67
Shareholder, Letter of, 75, 83, 115, 135, 163, 211
Sale of Copper Ores at Pool, 79, 119
St. Neot's and St. Cleer Consols Mining Company, 85, 138, 173
Subscriber, Letter of, 101, 115, 135, 211
St. Petersburgh Sarskoe-sclo Railroad, 115
Sandwich Harbour and Railway Company, 137
South African Bank, 154
South Eastern Railway Company, 162
Stephen, George, 186
Steam Boiler Safety, 28
Sperm Whale 62
Speculation, Remarks on, 60
Scrip System, 75, 92, 108
Salt Mines, 75

Statistics, 94
Sunderland Coal Trade, 99
Steam Engine, Performance of a, 136, 172, 221, 231
Shareholders, liability of, 150
Stannaries of Cornwall, 200
Sussex institution, 219

Tide Table—in each number
Tamar Silver Lead Mining Company—in each number
Treleigh Consols Mining Company, 6, 13, 22, 29, 45, 53, 61, 69, 77, 85, 93, 102, 109, 114, 125, 138, 145, 157, 165, 173, 182, 205, 221
Tin Croft Mining Company, 30
Tin Streamers at Helston, Meeting of, 38
Trevolvas, 69
Thames Tunnel Company, 83
Thames Haven Dock and Railway 106
Taff Vale Railway, 106, 154
Tristram, Henry, 115
Tin Trade, 163, 186, 206
Trevorgus Mining Company, 171, 229
Tresavean Mining Company, 197, 206, 219
Tribe, Henry, 198
Tin Streamers, Meeting of, 38
Tolls of Steam Carriages, 52
Thames Tunnel, 51
Tut Work and Tribute, 75
Tin Produce, 100, 212
Thomas, R., Geological Survey, 189
Tresavean Mine, 196, 204, 212
Tin Trade, 204, 220

Union Gold Mining Company, Letter on, 11, 19, 59, 67, 75, 83
United Hills Mining Company—in each Number
United Mexican Mining Association, 34, 110, 165, 214
Union Gold Mining Company, 52, 68

Vaux and Fennell, 51
Van Dieman's Land Agricultural Company, 83
Verax, 101
Vigers, W. R., 155

West India Agricultural Company, 28, 36, 51
Wheal Brothers and Sisters Mining Companies, letter on, 27, 37
West Wheal Jewel Mining Association, 6, 22, 29, 117, 126, 138, 145, 157, 165, 173, 182, 198, 205, 214, 221, 229
West Wheal Brothers Mining Company—in each Number
Wheal Brothers Mining Company, 6, 13, 22, 29, 37, 53, 61, 69, 77, 85, 93, 101, 109, 117, 125, 138, 145, 157, 173, 164, 173, 182, 197, 226
Wheal Sisters Mining Company, 6, 13, 22, 29, 37, 53, 61, 69, 77, 85, 93, 101, 109, 117, 126, 137, 145, 157, 173, 182, 197, 226
Water Works (Prices of Shares)—in each Number
Wendron Royal Mining Company, 37, 53, 162
Walsall and South Staffordshire Banking Company, 60
Wheal Gilbert Mining Company, 69
W. S. M., 75
Wheal Brewer, 94, 115
Wheal Lænoy, 126, 158
West Tresavean, 145, 158
West Cork Mining Company, 155, 163, 186, 198, 205
Whidden Mining Company, 198
West India Agricultural, 28, 39, 68
West Cork Mining Company, 44, 68, 76, 84, 156, 164, 177, 184, 191, 196, 212, 220, 229
Wheal Brewer, Remarks on, 100

Yorkshire District Bank, 53
Y. Z., 115

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Note.—P. *for Prospectus*; C. *for Calls*; D. *for Dividends*; M. *for Meetings*; R. *for Railways.*

Albion Copper, C., 1, 33, 41, 49, 81, 113, 131, 217
Albion Copper, M., 153, 193
Atlas Assurance, P., 1, 113, 121
Alten, C., 33, 73
Anti Dry-Rot, C., 3, 134
Anti Dry-Rot, P., 10, 17, 25, 65, 74, 82, 90, 97, 153
Anori Gold-Stream Works, M., 81, 105
Adventurers, Tresavean, M., 89
American Life Insurance, P., 98, 113, 225
Anglo-American Gold, P., 153, 201, 210
Agricultural and Commercial Bank of Ireland, 193
Alkali Manufacturers, 201, 217
Athenæum, 225

Birmingham, &c. R., 1, 49, 51, 89
Borough of St. Marylebone Bank, P., 2, 10, 18, 25, 33, 41, 76, 81, 113, 141, 209, 217
British Association, M., 9, 17, 51
British Copper, M., 25, 33, 41, 133
British Copper, C., 49, 81, 141, 169, 181, 207, 225
Bissor Bridge, C., 33, 41
Brighton Junction R., P., 41
Bognor Gas-Light and Coke, P., 89
Bank of Australia, P., 105
Bristol and Exeter R. Contracts, 106
Brazilian Steam, 133
Bolivar, C., 141
British Tin, M., 193, 209
British Tin, C., 225

Columbian, D., 1
Cornwall Great United, M., 41, 49, 57, 89, 113, 122
Cornwall Great United, C., 17, 25, 33, 169, 181, 225
Cornwall Great United, P., 49, 57
Carn Marth, 41, 49
Carn Grey Tin, 25, 33, 41, 81, 193
Cambrian United, P., 1, 9, 26, 34, 42, 50, 58, 66, 74, 81, 90, 97
Cornish Consols, P., 3, 9, 17, 26, 34, 41, 50, 57, 66
City of London Banking, 9
Copiapo, M., 9, 17, 25
Copiapo, D., 57, 65
Combmartin, M., 41, 49
Combmartin, P., 73
Combmartin, C., 81, 89, 161, 217
Caution, Mulberry Hills, 73, 81, 89, 97, 105

INDEX.

Castle an Dinas, M., 73, 113, 121, 204, 209
Castle an Dinas, C., 172
City and Richmond R., 81, 161
Cowarch Lead, 89
Cornubian Lead, C., 105, 209
Court of Stannaries of Cornwall, 136
Carmarthenshire Collieries, 141
Cornwall Tin Smelting, P., 153
Cariggan Tin, 153
Commercial Steam, 153
Copper Mine for Sale, 161, 169
Capital Lead Mines, 217

Denbighshire Iron, C., 73, 81
De Dunstanville Memorial, 90, 169
Desirable Estate, 89, 97, 105
Dartmoor Tin, M., 105, 113, 121
Droitwich Salt, M., 113
Durham Coal, C., 181, 193, 201

East Wheal Jewel, C., 1, 97, 217
East Wheal Jewel, M., 81
East African, P., 1, 10, 18
East Crenver, P., 1, 10
East Wheal Kitty, P., 29, 17, 25, 33, 81
Engineers' Encyclopædia, 10, 18, 25, 73, 81, 153
East Cornwall Silver, C., 73, 141, 193
English, M., 73, 225
Eastern Counties R., M., 81, 105
Eastern Counties R., P., 89
Eastern Counties R., C., 133, 161, 170, 181, 217
Elkstone and Ryledge, 89, 97, 106, 113, 122, 154, 169, 181, 193
East Wheal Brothers, C., 113, 121, 133, 142, 161, 169, 181, 193
East Wheal Brothers, M., 201, 209
East Wheal Strawberry, C., 121, 253, 141
Employment for Money, 122
East Goss Moor, C., 133
Evening Employment, 141
Edinburgh and Leith R., C., 193
European Gas, M., 201, 209, 225
Edwards, J. H., 2

Gryll's Mining Sheet, 33, 41, 50
General Conveyance, P., 41, 49
Gilley, C., 97, 133, 161
Great Wheal Prosper, C., 141
Great North of England R., 154, 217, 225
Glyn Nedd Iron, P., 170, 181
Geological Transactions, 217
Geological Map, 161, 169, 181, 193

Henry Molyneux, 9, 17, 33, 49, 65
Hibernian, M., 9
Holwood, P., 9
Hayle Consols, C., 17, 38, 41, 49, 81
Hayle, R., M., 25, 33
Hull and Selby R., P., 41, 49, 57, 84, 133
Hunter's Patent, 50
Holmbush, C., 57, 65, 105, 113, 121, 133, 153, 181, 193
Heirs, &c., 98
Herefordshire Cotton Mills, P., 122, 134, 142, 153
Hull and Nottingham R., 161
Huel Grose Silver Lead, C., 201
Hot Air, 153

Imperial British, P., 2, 10, 18
International R. P., 17, 25, 50, 57
Irish Waste Land Improvement, P., 25
Imperial Brazilian, M., 113, 141
Imperial Brazilian, D., 161
Imperial Brazilian Steam, P., 142, 154
Iron Trade, M., 153

Jamacia, P., 10
Jamacia R., P., 122

Kerrow Tin, C., 9, 17, 81, 89, 113, 121, 193
Kerrow Tin, M., 57, 65, 133
Kentish Town Improvement, P., 105
Kellewerris, D., 141, 169, 181
Kefn Lead, C., 209

Lathe, Wanted, 122
London Sperm, P., 1, 9, 17, 25, 34
Llansannan, P., 2, 9
London and Portsmouth R. Direct, P., 2, 9, 18, 89, 97
Levant Copper and Tin Mine, Sale, 10, 17
Loan and Cornwall, and Devonshire Investment Association, P., 17, 25, 33
London and Brighton R., P., 50, 142, 217
London Joint Stock Bank, P., 65, 141, 169
London Grand Junction R., P., 89
Lloyd's, G. M., 97
London Colliery, 97, 113, 121
London and Boston R., P., 98
London Spirit, P., 133
London and Westminster Bank, 133, 153, 161, 169
Lieutenant Green, 153
London and Greenwich R. Fares, 161, 169, 181, 209, 217, 225
London, Ware, and Hertford, R., 161
Llanelly R. and Dock, 193, 201

Marine Assurance, P., 1
Mining of Ireland, Sale, 17
Mexican and South American, M., 33, 41, 49
Mexican and South American, D., 209, 217
Mexican, M., 49
Mount's Bay, 57
Minas Geraes, C., 65, 220, 225
Monmouthshire Iron and Coal, P., 65, 73, 97, 105, 113, 121
Mulberry Hills Tin and Copper, P., 66, 74, 82, 90, 193, 201
Mining Journal in Bristol, 97
Margate and Ramsgate R., M., 142, 161
Margate and Ramsgate R., C. 169
Mixon Acre, 194
Middlesex County Bank, 209, 217
Minerals to be Let, 217
Mexican Bondholders, 2
Mining Review, P., 3, 12, 18, 25, 33, 44, 52, 58, 65, 73, 82, 90, 98, 106, 114, 122, 142, 170, 193, 201, 204, 209, 217, 225

New South Hooe, M., 1, 9, 17, 217, 225
New South Hooe, C., 121
North Cornwall, C., 9, 169, 181, 201
Northampton Union Coal, P., 10, 18, 25, 34
Newcastle and Northumberland Coal, 26, 41
North Consolidated Copper, C., 33, 41, 181, 193, 201, 209, 217
North Consolidated Copper, M., 153, 169
National Brazilian, C., 41, 49, 57, 113, 121
New South Durham R., P., 81, 90, 97, 114, 154, 161
National Life, P., 121
New Marine Steam boilers, 161, 170, 181, 193, 201, 209, 217, 225
North Wheal Kitty Tin and Copper, 161

Old Moor Tin, M., 113, 121, 153, 141, 193, 225

Penoles Gold, C., 3, 17, 25, 33
Penoles Gold, M., 9, 121, 133, 141, 153, 161, 169, 225
Plymouth Iron, P., 41, 49, 58
Public Auction, 81, 89, 97
Provisis Tables, 106, 114, 122
Preston and Wyre R., 106
Patent White Lead, M., 121
Perran Consols, C., 181
Patent Safety Fuse, 193, 201, 209, 217, 225

Roche Consols, P., 1, 9, 17
Rhymney Iron, P., 9; C., 105
Railway to Blackwall, P., 17, 50, 57, 74, 154, 169, 193
Royal Cornwall Polytechnic, P., 74
Redmoor Consolidated, C., 97, 105, 141
Royal Copper Mines of Cobre, M., 97, 113, 121, 141
Royal Copper Mines of Cobre, D., 153, 161, 169
Railway Magazine, 106, 225
Royal Polberon Consols, M., 113, 121, 133, 141, 209; C., 161, 193, 201
Russian Railway, P., 121, 133, 141, 209, 225
Reports on Canals, 225
Royalties, sale of, 113
Robins, George, sale, 153, 166, 170

St. Hilary Copper, C., 1, 33, 41, 57, 225
St. Hilary Copper, M., 17, 25
St. Dominick, P., 19
Stanhope and Tyne R., D., 1
Shares in Mines for Sale, 9, 25, 49, 57, 65, 73, 81, 89, 97, 105, 113, 121, 133, 141, 201
South Polgooth Tin and Copper, C., 17, 49, 57, 65
South Polgooth Tin and Copper, M., 169, 193
South Polgooth, Shares for Sale, 225
South British Cotton Manufacturing, P., 18, 26, 33, 41, 49, 121, 134, 141
Sheffield and Humber R., P., 18
Sheffield and Midland R., P., 33, 42
South Eastern R., P., 41, 50, 58, 74, 106, 122, 133, 170
South Eastern R., C., 142, 201, 209, 217, 225
South Eastern R., M., 153
Secretary to Public Companies, 49
South Eastern and Brighton R., P., 65, 106, 121, 133, 142, 153, 210
Shropshire R., P., 65
Lymington's Paddle, P., 97
Southern Coal and Mining, P., 98, 106, 114, 122
Steam Engine, 113, 121, 133, 141
Single Rose Tin Mine, M., 121, 154
Sandwich Dock and Railway, 134
Scientific Memoirs, 153
St. Ann's Society Schools, Election, 193
Sussex Royal Institution, Anniversary, 204

Tinners, Streamers, and others, 2, 17, 42, 50
To Mineral Adventurers, 41, 49, 57, 65, 73, 81
Thames Tunnel, 2, 17, 41, 66, 82, 113, 121, 217
Thames Haven Dock and Railway, P., 17, 105
To Timber Merchants, Builders, &c., 3, 17, 134
To Mining Companies, 41
To Ship Owners and Builders, 3, 25
Tresavean Mine Sale, 41, 49, 181
To be Sold, a Valuable Tin Mine, 9
Trenery, Wm., Mine Agent, 73
Treleigh Consolidated Mines, C., 9, 17, 73, 81, 89, 97, 105, 201, 209
Treleigh Consolidated Mines, M., 89, 97, 105
To Founders, &c., 17, 25, 66
To Engineers, &c., 25, 41, 49
Tables for ascertaining the value of Black Tin, 212
To the Rt. Hon. Frances Baroness Bassett, 33
Thoughts on the Stannary Bills, 201
To be Sold, 89, 124, 161, 193, 220
Tanfield Moor Colliery Sale, 89, 97, 105, 113, 121, 123, 141
To the Shipping Interest, 170
The Miners' Guide, 89, 98, 106, 114, 122, 134, 142
To Mine Agents, 113
Truro, Redruth, and Penzance R., P., 90
To be Sold by Auction, 169, 181
Ting Tang and Wheal Moyle Copper and Tin, P., 105
Trustees of the Earl of Dudley, 113, 121
Tin, Copper, and Silver Lead Mine Shares for Sale, 121
To Mine and Coal Agents, 153, 161
The Central Kentish and Sandwich Harbour, P. 153

Upton and Robert's, Patent Safety Lamp, 2, 10, 17, 25, 33, 42, 50
United Hills, M., 73, 89, 97, 113, 121, 133, 141
United Hills, D., 121, 133
Universal Life, 170
United Mexican, M., 9, 17, 25
Union Gold, C., 12, 65
Union Gold, M., 41, 57

Varteg Iron, 33, 41, 50, 57, 65
Valuable Mineral Property, 65, 73, 81, 90
Valuable Freehold Estate, 73, 81, 89, 97, 105
Valuable Shares in Mines, 113, 193

Wheal Brewer, P., 1, 10, 121
Wheal Carne Tin and Copper, 217
Wendron, Royal, C., 9, 113, 153
Wendron, Royal, M., 89, 161
Wheal Ackland Lead and Silver, C., 9
Wheal Sisters, M., 209
Wicklow Copper D., 9, 17, 153, 201
Wicklow Copper, M., 169
Wheal Kitty, Sale, 10, 25
Wheal Brothers, M., 209
West Sussex and Bognor, P., 17, 25, 41, 50
Wheal Sisters, C., 201, 209, 225
West Cornwall Mines Investment, M., 169
West Cornwall Mines Investment, P., 17
West Cornwall Mines Investment, D., 225
Wheal Squire Tin and Copper, P., 25, 33, 41
Wheal Ackland Lead and Silver, 201
Wheals Harmony and Montague, C., 44, 49, 57
West Wheal Brothers, M., 181, 193
Wheal George, C., 49, 57, 65, 113, 141, 153, 172, 204
Wheal Gilbert Tin and Copper, C., 65, 73, 81, 89, 169, 181, 193, 201, 209, 217
Wheal Hennock Silver and Lead, P., 105, 121, 133, 141
Wheal Lenoy, C., 105, 133, 141, 153, 161, 181, 200, 209
Wheal Grylls Consolidated Tin, P., 73, 82, 90, 99
Wheal Mary Consols Tin and Copper, P., 154, 166, 169, 181
West Wheal Jewel, C., 81, 89, 105, 141, 193, 201
Wheal Morgan Copper, 89, 97
Westminster Cemetry, P., 89
Wheal Osborn, Wolla, and Wheal Noble Tin and Copper, C., 97
West Tresavean, D., 141, 169, 181
West Cork (Injunction), 153, 161, 169, 209, 217
West Cork, 169, 217
West Cork, M., 153, 161, 169, 182
Wheal Lady Grenville, C., 1
Winstanley, Sale by Auction, 97, 105, 113
Zacatecas, 57